

and District, and Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board. Jim has been a tremendous asset to the city of Suisun and Solano County as one of their most experienced and valued mayors. His efforts earned for him the high esteem of his associates and the appreciation of the public.

As Jim Sperring steps down as mayor of Suisun City, I would like to thank him and his wife Pam for their commitment and service to the community of Suisun City. I wish Jim the best of luck in his new leadership role on the Solano County board of supervisors.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
MR. RICHARD W. DURST

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Richard W. Durst, as he assumes the role of president of Baldwin-Wallace College, an extraordinary institution of higher learning in Berea, OH.

Mr. Durst comes to the Cleveland area after 6 years as dean of the College of Arts and Architecture and executive director of University Arts Services at the Pennsylvania State University. He will undoubtedly succeed in continuing to build Baldwin-Wallace's academic recognition, especially in the areas of arts, music, and theater as an international expert in theater set design and the role of the arts in academic training.

His creative work has been featured in group exhibitions in Beijing and Seoul, and he was invited to design the world premiere of The Belltower for the Paris Opera. He also was the codesigner of the United States' exhibit for the 1999 Prague Quadrennial, the world's largest and most prestigious exhibition of theater design and theater architecture.

He brings to B-W demonstrated strengths in curriculum development and review, administration, recruitment and retention planning, fund raising and facilities construction and management. He has already received distinction for receptiveness, presence, and academic stature which has connected with all of the portions of the college community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognition and welcome to Mr. Richard W. Durst, an individual with both significant academic accomplishments and a record of community involvement which will positively add to the campus community of Baldwin-Wallace and the Cleveland area in general, and I look forward to working with him to further enrich the College and all elements of higher education.

HONORING BETTY ORTEN

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Mrs. Betty Orten, a great Coloradan who passed away on November 24, 2006, the day after a spirited Thanksgiving celebration with her fam-

ily. She demonstrated great leadership and social conscience in civic affairs and will be missed by friends and loved ones.

Betty Orten grew up on military posts as her father's career as an Army officer took his family across the country, overseas, and finally to Colorado. Betty graduated from high school in Colorado Springs and then went on to receive a degree in history and sociology from the University of Colorado. While at the University of Colorado, she met her future husband, Russell Sage Orten. In 1951, they married and made their home in Westminster, Colorado.

After graduation, Betty began a career as a social worker and also became involved in the Democratic Party. She served as a precinct committeewoman, Democratic State vice chairperson, Adams County Democratic chairperson, and Democratic National Committee member. In 1974, after all of her hard-earned experience in social work and politics, she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives.

Betty served as a representative for four terms, as well as one term as the House caucus chairwoman. Throughout her career, she concentrated on issues concerning the disadvantaged. She focused on dental care for the elderly, help for battered women and displaced homemakers, housing for single-parent families, and child care for single moms.

Those who knew Betty have fond memories and undoubtedly recognize her remarkable impact on them and fellow Coloradans along with Colorado politics. Betty was a role model and an example for women as she took leadership roles and worked tirelessly for the disadvantaged. Betty was always thoughtful, honest, and persuasive in work and politics.

In 1997, I had the privilege to be a representative in the Colorado House of Representatives where inspiring stories of Betty's labors and personality still resound. She was a true pioneer who broke new ground throughout her political career and in her numerous leadership positions.

If the measure of a life well-led is the impact that a person has on others, then Betty's impact is broad and deep. We all owe her a debt of gratitude and respect, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and remembering a life of service while expressing our deepest sympathies for her family's loss.

IN HONOR OF ALFIE TEWFICK  
KHALIL

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a good friend and great American who passed away tragically on November 18, 2006. Alfie Tewfick Khalil was a native of Egypt who came to this country in the late 1960s. In 1979, Alfie joined the faculty of the Monterey-based Defense Language Institute (DLI) where he taught Arabic to U.S. military personnel. He soon stood out as a leader among the DLI faculty. In 1980, he became a shop steward with AFGE Local 1263, the union representing the DLI faculty. By 1987, he was elected president of Local 1263.

In the post 9-11 world, foreign language is a national security tool. In 2005, General John

Abizaid, Commander of U.S. Central Command, testified before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, that the "ability to cross the cultural divide is not an Army issue. It is a national issue. We have to be able to deal with the people in the rest of the world as the globe shrinks in terms of communication and problem solving and sharing." DLI plays an indispensable role in moving this defense strategy forward. But DLI can't do it without its faculty. They are native speakers of their mother languages who, like Alfie, come from the distant places all over the globe to help our Nation better defend itself.

Alfie understood this and made the advocacy for DLI faculty and staff his life's work. After my first election to Congress, I learned quickly that there were two people I needed to know at DLI: the commandant, a Colonel so and so who would retire or move on in a year or two, and Alfie, who would always be there. Alfie made his presence felt in so many ways.

One of the best examples of this was his hard work on behalf of "locality pay"—the small salary boost for Federal workers based in particularly high cost areas. Alfie pointed out that Monterey County was, indeed, one of those areas, but that the Federal Government still considered it rural so DLI faculty were paid at much lower rates. Alfie and I worked together for more than 3 years to secure a decision by the Office of Personnel Management that Monterey County-based civil service workers deserved locality pay. This hard work on Alfie's part has helped DLI attract and retain the best language teachers in the world.

Alfie was about more than pay at DLI, however. He was about professionalism. That became clear in the recent fight to keep DLI off the base closure list. Alfie was a never-ending resource to my office and the BRAC Commission. He provided information and statistics on the level of expertise and depth of training of the DLI faculty. With this information it was easy to make the case that DLI could not be recreated anywhere else—that it was dependent on and unique to the talent of the Monterey area. Alfie was a key player in keeping DLI open and in Monterey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the entire House in sharing our most sincere condolences to Alfie's family both here in the United States and in Egypt and to his extended family of students and colleagues throughout the DLI community.

HONORING NYS ASSEMBLY MA-  
JORITY LEADER PAUL A.  
TOKASZ

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the career in public service of an outstanding representative of the residents of Western New York—retiring New York State Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz.

Paul Tokasz served honorably as Member of Assembly in the 143rd District from the time of his initial election in a special election in 1988 to this very day. Paul will end his service in the State Assembly at the end of this year.

A graduate of Hobart and Buffalo State Colleges, Paul began his career in public service as a Buffalo Public School teacher. After teaching elementary school for several years, Paul was elected Clerk of the Erie County Legislature, and later accepted appointment as a Deputy County Clerk in the administrations of the late Genevieve Starociak and current County Clerk David J. Swarts.

In early 1988, following the November 1987 election of then-Assemblyman Dennis T. Gorski as Erie County Executive, Paul became a candidate for the open seat in the 143rd Assembly District. Paul handily won election in 1988, was re-elected later that year, and never again faced a serious challenge for re-election.

We know why he never faced a serious challenge—because Paul was and is an outstanding public servant, a capable and effective Member of “the people’s house,” who steadfastly defended Western New York while in service in Albany.

Over the years, Paul earned several important committee posts, including the chairmanship of the Assembly’s committees on Election Law, where under Paul’s leadership a state constitutional amendment was adopted to implement the 1993 federal “Motor Voter” law. Paul also chaired the Assembly’s committee on Tourism, Arts and Sports Development, where he emerged as a statewide leader and an advocate for cultural tourism, particularly as it impacted Western New York, and his advocacy in increasing opportunities for cultural institutions to gain access to State capital funds as a means of expanding economic development in local communities.

The apex of Paul’s Assembly career coincided with his ascension into the Assembly’s formal leadership structure, culminating in his January 2001 appointment by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver as Majority Leader. As Majority Leader, Paul assumed responsibility for directing the day-to-day operations of the legislative session in the Assembly chamber, serving as floor leader, setting the daily agenda, and overseeing debate and voting on all legislation coming before the house. As someone who served under Paul as a rank-and-file member for 4 of my 6 years, I was witness to the tremendous skill and dignity he displayed in that role. Simply put, Paul performed remarkably in that role.

Speaking on a personal level, when I came to the State Assembly as a freshman member in 1999, Paul was someone I sought out immediately as a person with a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge—as someone with 10 years of seniority, Paul clearly had knowledge of the institution of the State Legislature that I did not myself possess. Paul was a tremendous help to me as I gained an understanding of the inner workings of Albany, and I have always credited his help and guidance as of critical importance.

In 2004, when New York’s 27th District seat in Congress suddenly came open, Paul and I were both potential candidates. As days wore on, Paul and I met, and he soon offered me his unconditional support. Paul co-chaired my successful election campaign in 2004, and has been an ally and a friend as I have sought to effectively represent Western New York in Congress.

Paul has a great many accomplishments about which to be proud, but knowing him as I do, Paul takes no greater pride in any of his

personal accomplishments than that which concerns his family. Paul and his Sylvia are parents of three outstanding adult children, Kristie, Jennifer, and Andrew. Paul and Sylvia also rightly take tremendous pride in their three grandchildren, Jacob and Bradley Kantor and Sydney Tokasz. To his immense credit, Paul’s decision to retire from public service at such a relatively young age was undertaken out of his sincere desire to spend more time with his family.

Paul Tokasz is a tremendous example of a dedicated, effective public servant, and I was and remain proud to call him a governmental colleague. More to the point, I am prouder still to call Paul Tokasz my friend. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in wishing Paul, Sylvia and their entire family good luck and Godspeed in all of their future endeavors.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF JANET FITZGERALD

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Janet Fitzgerald as the Denton Parks and Recreation Director. Ms. Fitzgerald will be retiring from 15 years of service to the city of Denton in the 26th District of Texas.

Ms. Fitzgerald joined the city of Denton as a park planner in 1991. After demonstrating years of leadership and dedication to the city of Denton, Ms. Fitzgerald became the parks and recreation director in 2003. Under her visionary direction, Denton’s parks have received national recognitions and awards, including Excellence in Aquatics, the Gold Medal for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management, and the Texas Gold Medal, the highest award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society.

Ms. Fitzgerald has the enriched lives of Denton community citizens through comprehensive recreation initiatives and a wide variety of local programs. Denton Mayor Perry McNeill noted that the city will miss her presence in the city of Denton.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Janet Fitzgerald for her service and leadership in the Denton community. Retiring to spend more time with her daughter and volunteer at her church, I wish Ms. Fitzgerald the best of luck in her future endeavors. Her contributions and commitment to the city of Denton should inspire us all.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate 100 years of worship. The church is holding a banquet on December 9 to kickoff a yearlong celebration of the centennial anniversary.

In 1902 several members of Flint, Michigan’s African-American community gathered with the Reverend William Lyons at the home of Mrs. Sarah Howard and held worship services. They aspired to organize an official church and in 1907 their dream was realized. A church home was established on Ward Street, now Twelfth Street, and Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church was born.

Over the years the church moved twice until it found a permanent home at 424 Kennelworth Street in 1950. Under the guidance of Reverend Robert T. Turpin the church grew. Reverend Turpin led the congregation for 33 years and made many improvements to the property including the construction of Turpin Fellowship Hall.

Reverend Roy I. Greer became the pastor in 1972. Reverend Greer has directed the sanctuary renovations, installed a new baptistery, refurbished the offices and classrooms. In 1999 the Family Life Center was constructed. The basketball court, kitchen, and classrooms are the cornerstone of the community outreach spearheaded by Reverend Greer. The recreation center has provided a place for young people to gather in a safe, loving environment.

As the first African-American Baptist Church in the Flint area, Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church has fostered many persons that went on to become ordained ministers of the Word of God. It has stood as a beacon of light for every social justice movement over the past 100 years and continues to provide solace and help for the most vulnerable in our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate 100 years of consecrated service to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. May they continue to act in the Name of the Lord for another 100 years.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN LEANDRO PUBLIC LIBRARY

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2006*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the San Leandro, CA, Public Library. San Leandro’s first free public library was established in January 1906 and was located at the old City Hall on Davis Street.

On January 31, 1906, the Library Board of Trustees appointed Mary Brown as San Leandro’s first official librarian. Her starting salary was \$12.50 a month and she served as librarian from 1906 to 1938.

In 1907, plans were made to construct a library building. Library Trustee Talcott P. Cary donated the 35-acre plot and wealthy steel magnate Andrew Carnegie donated \$10,000 towards its construction. William H. Weeks, an architect famous for designing Carnegie libraries, was selected. The library’s dedication ceremony was held on May 14, 1909.

The old Carnegie library was demolished to make way for a new 1½-story library building. The architect was Francis Joseph McCarthy. The new library, dedicated on January 15, 1961, was over 44,660 square feet and had a